

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 3, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 137**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Maze**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bass, Benoit, Bermudez, Cogdill, DeVore, Garcia, Harman, Haynes, Huff, Karnette, La Suer, Liu, Mountjoy, Niello, Pavley, Spitzer, Strickland, and Wyland Wyland, Arambula, Baca, Berg, Blakeslee, Bogh, Calderon, Canciamilla, Chavez, Chu, Cohn, Coto, Daucher, De La Torre, Dymally, Emmerson, Evans, Frommer, Goldberg, Hancock, Jerome Horton, Shirley Horton, Houston, Jones, Keene, Klehs, Koretz, La Malfa, Laird, Leno, Leslie, Levine, Lieber, Lieu, Matthews, McCarthy, Montanez, Mullin, Nakanishi, Nation, Nava, Negrete McLeod, Nunez, Oropeza, Parra, Plescia, Richman, Ridley-Thomas, Sharon Runner, Ruskin, Saldana, Salinas, Torrico, Tran, Umberg, Vargas, Villines, Wolk, and Yee)**  
(Coauthors: Senators Ackerman, Cox, Denham, Ducheny, Romero, and Speier)

March 14, 2006

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 137—Relative to Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 137, as amended, Maze. Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

This measure would resolve that the month of April be designated henceforth as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In California, there were 9,598 forcible rapes  
2 reported in 2004; and

3 WHEREAS, The American Medical Association has stated  
4 that a “woman is raped every 46 seconds in the United States”  
5 and that sexual assault is a “silent epidemic”; and

6 WHEREAS, Women, children, and men are all victims of  
7 sexual assault and it is estimated that one in three women, one in  
8 four girls, one in six boys, and one in 11 men will be victims at  
9 least once in their lifetimes; and

10 WHEREAS, Rape and sexual assault impacts women,  
11 children, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic  
12 backgrounds; and

13 WHEREAS, Women, children, and men suffer multiple types  
14 of sexual violence including acquaintance rape, stranger rape,  
15 sexual assault by an intimate partner, gang rape, incest, stalking,  
16 serial rape, ritual abuse, sexual harassment, child sexual  
17 molestation, prostitution, pornography, and stalking; and

18 WHEREAS, In addition to the immediate physical and  
19 emotional costs, sexual assault may also have associated severe  
20 and long-lasting consequences of posttraumatic stress disorder,  
21 substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating  
22 disorders, and suicide; and

23 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
24 have identified sexual assault as a significant, costly, and  
25 preventable health issue; and

26 WHEREAS, Women, children, and men in our state have the  
27 right to be safe from sexual violence in their homes, at school, at  
28 work, and on the streets; and

29 WHEREAS, It is our responsibility to support rape survivors  
30 by treating them with dignity, compassion, and respect; and

31 WHEREAS, It is crucially important to hold perpetrators  
32 responsible for sexual attacks, and to prevent sexual violence at  
33 every opportunity; and

34 WHEREAS, A coalition of rape crisis centers and their allies,  
35 known as the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, has  
36 emerged to directly confront this crisis with the cooperation of  
37 law enforcement agencies, churches, health care providers, and  
38 other helping professionals from California’s diverse  
39 communities; and

1 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the compassion and  
2 dedication of the individuals involved in this effort, applaud their  
3 commitment, and increase public understanding of this  
4 significant problem; and

5 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the strength, courage,  
6 and challenges of the victims and survivors of sexual assault and  
7 their families and friends as they struggle to cope with the reality  
8 of sexual assault; and

9 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize that not all victims of  
10 sexual assault survive, either at the time of the assault or later,  
11 due to the horrific long-term trauma that sexual assault often  
12 inflicts upon victims; and

13 WHEREAS, There are rape prevention and education efforts  
14 underway throughout California to challenge the societal myths  
15 and behaviors that perpetuate rape and to engage communities in  
16 a common goal of ending sexual assault; now, therefore, be it

17 *Resolved, by the Assembly of the State of California, the*  
18 *Senate thereof concurring*, that, henceforth, the month of April  
19 shall be designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and be  
20 it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit  
22 copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to  
23 the Governor, to the Director of the United States Justice  
24 Department's Office for Victims of Crime, and to each Senator  
25 and Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
26 States.

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